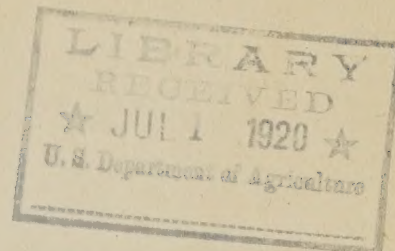


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1-4-12
42812

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON.



June 5, 1920.

S U M M A R Y

OF ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AFFECTED
BY REDUCED APPROPRIATIONS.

By
E. T. MEREDITH
Secretary of Agriculture.

The agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1920, carries approximately \$6,000,000 less than the Department's estimates as to its needs and \$2,185,000 less than the amount provided in the appropriation act for the current year. Furthermore, the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased considerably and the same amount of money can not be made to do as much work as formerly.

Here are some of the things that will result from the reduction in funds:

Hogcholera eradication work, so far as the Department is concerned, will have to be completely abandoned in several States.

The force of men in the field showing farmers how to save their hogs from cholera will have to be reduced from 140 to about 54. .

The large hog-producing States which now have the services of 5 to 8 Federal specialists on hog cholera will, henceforth, have not more than 2 or 3, and many of them will have only one.

The Department is obliged to withdraw from financial support of cooperative cow-testing association work in Ohio, Indiana, Iowa,

Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey.

Cooperative work toward improving the quality and increasing the use of dairy products will have to be abandoned in Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

The Department will have to discontinue its cooperation in the employment of dairy specialists engaged in demonstration work in Nevada and Wyoming.

The plan to extend that work next year into Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado can not be carried out.

Demonstration work designed to aid in the establishment of general live-stock industries in territory freed from cattle ticks must be abandoned in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Dairy specialists must be dispensed with in North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

The insurance fund of \$1,000,000 to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease, if it should appear in this country, is practically wiped out.

Many field stations engaged in cereal improvement work will have to be closed. This includes all the stations in North Carolina and Tennessee, and those at Amarillo, Tex.; Archer, Wyo.; Highmore, S. Dak.; Brookings, S. Dak.; Nephi, Utah; Burns, Ore.; and Lind, Wash. Stations at Williston, N. Dak.; and Newell, S. Dak.; already have been discontinued because increased costs could not be met with the money available.

Work toward preventing cereal diseases must be discontinued at the stations at Ithaca, N. Y.; Lansing, Mich.; Auburn, Ala.;

Tucson, Ariz.; and Corvallis, Ore.; and must be greatly reduced at the stations at Berkeley, Calif.; Milford, Conn.; Bloomington, Ill.; LaFayette, Ind.; Ames, Ia.; Manhattan, Kans.; Crowley, La.; St. Paul, Minn.; New Brunswick, N. J.; Fargo, N. Dak.; Hershey, Pa.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Arlington, Va.; Pullman, Wash.; and Madison, Wis.

Stations at which problems in irrigation agriculture are studied will have to be abandoned at San Antonio, Tex.; Umatilla, Ore.; and Newlands, Nev.

The staff engaged in the enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act must be reduced.

The investigational work at three out of the four forest experiment stations on the western forests must be discontinued.

Only one or two men can be retained for field investigations in forestry in the whole eastern portion of the country.

Much work having to do with maintaining and reproducing the forests in the East and South, where the problem of future timber supplies is most acute, will have to be abandoned. Nothing whatever can be done along that line in the Lake States or the Northeast.

Urgent problems connected with the rapidly waning supply of hardwoods in the Central States and the Appalachians can not be given proper attention.

Studies of the growth, yield, and future use of the vast areas of yellow-pine lands in the South will have to be abandoned.

Very little progress can be made in the general survey of national forest resources.

The color laboratory which, in the past few years, has aided

in the establishment of an American dye industry, must greatly reduce its work.

Work toward preventing spoilage during shipment of poultry, eggs and fish must be curtailed in several directions.

The services of crop reporting specialists on cotton, tobacco, and rice will have to be dispensed with.

Special estimates on the commercial production of fruits and truck crops must be discontinued.

The fund for eradicating the pink bollworm, the most destructive enemy of cotton, has been considerably reduced.

The project designed to give advice to cities concerning their marketing problems must be discontinued.

It will be necessary to discontinue all work to develop direct marketing of farm products by parcel post, express and otherwise.

The Pacific Coast, the Intermountain region, the South, and Southwest must, in large measure, be deprived of the benefits of the market news services.

The news service rendered the public from most of the large market centers, especially Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Omaha, and Minneapolis, must be so curtailed that widespread dissemination of information regarding market demands, supplies, and prices will be impossible.

It has been necessary to close the offices at San Francisco which have been furnishing market news on fruits and vegetables, and the dairy products office will have to be closed soon.

The issuance of daily market reports on dairy products at Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis may have to be discontinued,

Boston and Philadelphia being served from New York, and the important dairy section surrounding Minneapolis obtaining greatly delayed reports from Chicago.

The inspection service on fruits and vegetables will be reduced. Butter-inspection work can be conducted in only four of the large markets, and the inspection of certain other commodities specified in the law, such as hay, cannot be handled at all. Plans to establish offices for the inspection of fruits and vegetables in Hartford, Connecticut; Louisville, Kentucky; and Norfolk, Virginia, cannot be carried out.

Grain-supervision offices at Cleveland and Salt Lake City have been closed and the force of the Boston office will be reduced. Standards for milled rice, already planned, can not be promulgated because of a lack of funds for their effective enforcement.

Cooperative work in the development of drug crops will be abandoned.

The project to develop a home supply of camphor, which important product is now controlled by Japanese monopoly, will have to be reduced by 75 per cent.

Little further work can be done on vegetable oil crop investigations.

All investigations of the problems of temperature, moisture, soil, air and other physical factors in relation to plant growth must be completely discontinued.

Cooperative work in the control of contagious abortion of cattle will have to be abandoned in New York and Texas.

Investigations of animal tuberculosis, anthrax, and

various other diseases, as well as studies of stock poisoning by plants, will be greatly reduced.

Forest insect field stations at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Ashland, Oregon, and the sub-station at Chico, California, will be abandoned, and the work at the field laboratory at Los Gatos, California, seriously curtailed.

All work in the northeastern United States on investigation of insects injurious to forests, forest products, and shade trees will be discontinued.

Work in the Southeastern States relating to insect infestation of cut timber and forest products will be abandoned.

The assistance given the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and owners of private woodlands in insect control will be reduced.

The work toward controlling and eliminating the sweet-potato weevil, which was making good progress toward complete elimination of the pest, will have to be greatly curtailed.

It will be necessary to abandon the field station at Greeley, Colorado, devoted to experiments with sugar beet and potato insects.

The station at Chadbourne, North Carolina, investigating berry and cabbage insects, will be discontinued.

Work on insects injurious to the health of man, such as yellow-fever and malarial mosquitoes and the house fly, must be reduced.

Other lines of activity which will have to be materially curtailed include investigations of the culture and improvement of forage crops, the soil survey work, studies of live-stock production in sugarcane and cotton districts, work in the control of the potato-wart disease, field experiments in the construction and maintenance of roads

and of road materials and preparations, farm-irrigation investigations, and studies in farm drainage. A cut of \$50,000 in the fund for improvements on the national forests will necessarily hamper work necessary for the proper and economical administration, protection, and development of the national forests.

This summary, of course, does not take into account the projects which the Department feels, as indicated in the estimates submitted to Congress, should be inaugurated or expanded in order to deal more effectively with important problems in the field of agriculture.

Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Department that the appropriation of \$239,000 for Congressional seed distribution be eliminated and the money diverted to necessary and important activities having a direct bearing on agricultural production, this item, although dropped by the Senate, has been finally retained in the bill.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
WASHINGTON.

June 5, 1920.

ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AFFECTED BY
REDUCED APPROPRIATIONS.

The Department of Agriculture is receiving numerous inquiries from all parts of the country regarding the curtailment or discontinuance of various lines of work on account of reduced appropriations. These inquiries are coming from those interested in the activities affected and arise out of the action that is necessarily being taken by the Department to bring its expenditures next year within the limits set by Congress. In all these cases, the Department is urged to make some arrangement for the continuation of the particular lines of work involved. In reply to these inquiries, and in order to make clear that many varied and widely distributed projects and activities are necessarily affected by the reduction in funds, Edwin T. Meredith, Secretary of Agriculture, to-day made the following statement;

"The agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1920, as recently passed by Congress, carries approximately \$6,000,000 less than the estimates made by the Department as to its needs, and \$2,185,000 less than the amount provided in the appropriation act for the current fiscal year. Although the effect of reduced funds on the work of the Department was laid fully before Congress while the bill was under consideration, this serious reduction has been made apparently on the ground of economy. I do not believe it is real economy, however, because it will certainly hamper the Department in its efforts to aid the farmers of the country in doing their work of feeding and clothing the people, and will also handicap the Department in administering some of the important regulatory laws entrusted to it for enforcement. The projects or activities to be curtailed or discontinued, in so far as the Department has any discretion in the matter,

have been determined only after a very thorough and careful review of the whole situation, taking all the factors into consideration.

"There is a reduction of \$304,000 in the appropriation for the Bureau of Animal Industry as a whole, and this will affect many important lines of work. For example, we have this year \$446,865 for field work in connection with the eradication of hog cholera. The amount appropriated for next year is only \$192,200. There was a time when the annual losses of hogs from this disease amounted to 144 head to the thousand. Since the eradication campaign was launched, however, the losses have never exceeded 67 and they have been as low as 42 per thousand. It is perhaps not too much to say that the eradication work is saving farmers of the United States \$40,000,000 a year.

"With the money appropriated for hog cholera eradication, the Department has been carrying on work in 36 of the principal hog-raising States. The specialists in the field have been directing their efforts both to treating hogs and to demonstrating to veterinary practitioners, farmers, and others the proper method of determining when hogs have cholera and of giving them the proper treatment. They have also been showing farmers, by demonstrations, lectures, and personal interviews on the farm, how they may protect themselves from losses from the disease. With the reduced appropriation, only about one-third as much work can be done next year as has been done heretofore.

Must Abandon Work in Many States.

"The eradication work, so far as Federal assistance is concerned, will have to be completely abandoned in several States. The force of men

in the field helping farmers to save their hogs from cholera will have to be reduced from 140 to about 54. The large hog-producing States which now have from five to eight Federal hog-cholera specialists will henceforth have not more than two or three and many of them only one.

"The cooperation that has been established through a period of years between the Federal Department of Agriculture and State officials will have to be abandoned in many cases, which simply means that the machinery for hog-cholera control built up by patient work of years will be disrupted.

"The appropriation for the investigation of animal diseases has been reduced by \$14,400. One of the results will be the abandonment in New York and Texas of cooperative work looking to the control of contagious abortion of cattle. Work on other diseases will be generally curtailed, although it is impossible now to indicate the specific localities that will be affected. Among the studies that will be reduced are those on stock poisoning by plants, anthrax, tuberculosis, round worms of sheep, internal parasites, cattle ticks, mange mites, and other external parasites. These studies are now being conducted by the branch of the department that made the fundamental discovery relating to the cattle tick which causes Texas fever, perfected the vaccine cure for blackleg, discovered the cause of hog cholera and the method of prevention, and worked out the formula for arsenical dip in eradicating cattle ticks.

Dairy Investigations Curtailed.

"The appropriation for dairy investigations has been reduced by \$12,750. That appears to be a small sum; nevertheless, we are accomplish-

ing a great deal with it, and the reduction will make it necessary for the department to abandon its cow-testing work in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

"It must discontinue, also, the work it now has under way to improve the quality and increase the use of dairy products in the States of Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. It will have to withdraw from the cooperative dairy extension work in Nevada and Wyoming. Cow testing and the other lines of work that will have to be abandoned have enabled farmers in all these States to save considerable sums by pointing out the importance of eliminating the cows that do not pay for their keep and of generally improving the quality of dairy cows. As a result of the discontinuance of the work, the farmers in the States affected will probably lose this year many times \$12,750, and so will the farmers of other States into which the Department would have sent its trained cow-testing association experts during the next fiscal year if Congress had appropriated the same amount of money that is available this year.

"About one farm in six in the United States has no milk cows. Other farms that keep some milk cows dispose of all the dairy products. The families living on these two classes of farms thus are deprived of a much needed food. The Department of Agriculture has been conducting a campaign to emphasize the importance of maintaining family cows on farms, has been demonstrating the making of a good quality of farm butter, and, in some sections, the work has resulted in the placing of family cows on a large number of farms. Only a very small portion of the large field has been covered. We had planned to extend it until we had covered all the territory, but this work, too, must be discontinued.

Discontinue Work in Tick-Free Areas

"The Department of Agriculture has eradicated the cattle fever tick from approximately 70 per cent of the territory that it formerly occupied. It was felt that the Government should not leave the area freed of this pest to haphazard live stock development, but that it should follow up the tick eradication with an educational campaign to help the people to profitable cattle production. We now have a fund of \$50,000 for that work. Half of it is devoted to dairy extension -- assisting farmers in improving their methods of feeding, furnishing plans of dairy buildings and silos, giving instructions in the raising of calves, and aiding in the purchase of dairy cattle. The other half is used for demonstrations in general live stock production. The result has been the establishment of a dairy industry along the best lines in the areas freed from ticks and a steady increase in the number of beef cattle.

"Congress did not appropriate anything at all for that work next year. Therefore, all Federal activities along the specialized line of live-stock production demonstrations in tick-free territory will cease, and beef-cattle specialists will be dispensed with in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Dairy specialists also will be dispensed with in North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Oklahoma.

The Southern States have demonstrated their ability to breed, feed, and produce cattle that, in many instances, have carried off the sweepstakes at our International Live Stock Exposition at Chicago and

other stock shows. Therefore, the live-stock industry of the South should, by all means, be encouraged and supported in every way possible.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Fund Small.

"Congress has reduced the appropriation for combating foot-and-mouth disease by \$950,000 -- from \$1,500,000 to \$550,000. Foot-and-mouth disease is one of the most destructive live-stock scourges known to veterinary science. It has six times made its appearance in the United States, but we have always been able to stamp it out. It exists in many of the European countries and is likely to appear here again at any time. If it does appear, the eradication work will have to be very prompt and very thorough or the disease will get out of hand and cause enormous losses. Of the appropriation that we have had in the past, \$1,000,000 is merely an insurance fund. It cannot be used except in case of an actual outbreak of the disease. Practically all this sum is eliminated by the reduction. The funds provided in the new bill will be insufficient to cope with any extended outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and, if one should occur when Congress is not in session, there would be no quick means of getting the money that may be needed to protect the country.

Cereal Field Stations to be Closed.

"The funds provided for the Bureau of Plant Industry are approximately \$375,000 less than the amount appropriated this year. The appropriation for cereal investigations, for example, has been reduced

by \$80,000. That means, first of all, that the field stations for carrying on this work will have to be closed in North Carolina and Tennessee; at Amarillo, Tex.; Archer, Wyo.; at Highmore and Brookings, S. Dak.; Nephi, Utah; Burns, Ore.; and Lind, Wash. This is in addition to cereal field work that has already been discontinued at Williston, N. Dak.; and Newell, S. Dak.; because of the impossibility of continuing it under present high prices with the already inadequate appropriation.

"All these stations have been built up during a number of years to carry on experiments with new varieties and methods of cultivation. They have given the farmers they serve improved varieties and have developed for them cultural methods designed to produce the best yields.

"Pathological work on cereals must be reduced. Stem-rust investigations must be discontinued at Ithaca, N. Y.; Lansing, Mich.; Auburn, Ala.; Tucson, Ariz.; and Corvallis, Ore. Cereal-disease investigations along various lines, while they will not be entirely discontinued, must be reduced at Berkeley, Calif.; Milford, Conn.; Bloomington, Ill.; Lafayette, Ind.; Ames, Ia.; Manhattan, Kans.; Crowley, La.; St. Paul, Minn.; New Brunswick, N.J.; Fargo, N. Dak.; Hershey, Pa.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Arlington, Va.; Pullman, Wash.; and Madison, Wis.

Cereal-Disease Work Affected.

"The extremely important studies that are being conducted on flax diseases, rice diseases, Oriental downy mildew of corn, stripe and blotch disease of barley, soil-infesting rots of corn roots, stalks, and ears,

and wheat scab will be greatly reduced, and investigations of many less important diseases will be practically discontinued. I will give just one illustration of what these cereal-disease investigations mean. During the past two years our specialists have discovered that corn root rot and wheat scab are caused by the same fungus; that corn rot causes many missing hills and barren stalks; that it sometimes causes early ripening of apparently sound, but really diseased, ears which, because they are early, are saved for seed. Then they have shown that it is possible to detect the disease-carrying kernels by germination tests and so prevent the use of infested ears for seed. They discovered, also, that this same fungus is responsible for part of the heavy spoilage of canned corn known to commercial canners as "blacks", and they have shown how this loss may be prevented by testing sweet-corn seed on the germinator and rejecting the diseased ears. This is only one among hundreds of lines of work carried on at these stations which must be abandoned or curtailed.

"The appropriation for western irrigation agriculture has been reduced by \$20,000. That means, first of all, that the Department will have to abandon its stations at San Antonio, Texas; on the Umatilla Reclamation Project, Oregon; and on the Newlands Reclamation Project, Nevada. These stations have been of great benefit to farmers on irrigation projects in the working out of methods for the most satisfactory crop production under the varying conditions of the different projects. Closing them means the loss of the trained men who have been operating them and of the increasingly valuable information secured from their work.

"This work was undertaken as a matter of simple justice to the farmers who had settled on the irrigation projects. The irrigated lands include something over 15,000,000 acres. One and one-half millions acres

are included in projects in which the Government has already invested more than \$100,000,000 in construction work. The settlers are undertaking to repay that money to the Government. The stations that we now have to discontinue have been equipped gradually to provide facilities for making the irrigated farms profitable to the settlers, who could then repay the Government for the money it has spent.

Drug Crop Production Work Curtailed.

"The appropriation for drug, poisonous, and oil plant investigations is \$20,000 less than the amount provided this year. Just a word about what we are doing with that appropriation. Camphor, for instance, is extensively used in medicine and is indispensable in the celluloid industry. The world supply of camphor is controlled by the Japanese camphor monopoly. We have undertaken to develop an American source of supply, and large plantings of camphor have been made in Florida, but to establish the industry on a permanent basis, it is necessary to continue our efforts a few years longer. Belladonna, digitalis, and cannabis are indispensable in treating many serious ailments. The supply has ordinarily come from other countries but, when the war shut off the imports of drugs from abroad, the crisis was promptly met by increased production of these crops at home. That was possible only because of the Department's investigations and introduction of drug plants. All that work will be seriously hampered because of the small amount of money provided for its prosecution next year. We shall have to abandon our co-operative work in the development of drug crops. Poisonous plant surveys on the western stock ranges and in the national forests also will have to be largely discontinued; little further work can be done on vegetable

oil crop investigations; and the camphor project will have to be reduced by 75 per cent.

"The appropriation of \$32,500 for biophysical investigations has been completely eliminated. That was the money with which we financed the investigations of the problems of temperature, moisture, soil, air, and other physical factors in relation to plant growth. The entire work must be discontinued, and the results of years of careful study on fundamentally important problems will be lost.

Food and Drug Inspection Reduced.

"The appropriation for enforcing the Food and Drugs Act has been reduced by \$30,000. Even with the present appropriation, the Department has been able to maintain the enforcement of that important law only with great difficulty and through the practice of the most rigid economy. With the reduced amount provided for next year and constantly increasing costs of operation, it will be necessary to cut down the force to such a point that the food and drugs consumed by the people of this country cannot be safeguarded with the usual measure of thoroughness. This situation arises at a time when there is the greatest need for unusual care in the inspection of food and drugs. The high prices of materials constitute a temptation to manufacturers to adulterate their products. As a result of decreased appropriations for the maintenance of the necessary inspection service, adulterated products, both imported and home manufactured, will find easier access to the tables and homes of the Nation than they have found since the enactment of this law.

Dye Investigations Cut 30 Per Cent

"The appropriation for color investigations in the Bureau of Chemistry has been reduced by \$30,020, or more than 30 per cent below the funds available this year. When the world war began the United States was practically dependent upon Germany and Austria for its dyestuffs. The color laboratory a few years ago began investigations which are rapidly putting this country on a self-sustaining basis in the dye industry and which have already resulted in the granting of 16 patents. One achievement will serve to illustrate the importance of the work. Phthalic anhydride is used in the preparation of more than 300 chemicals, many of them of great commercial importance. Germany had enjoyed a practical monopoly on it and at one time it sold as high as \$7 a pound. The work of the color laboratory has made possible the manufacture of the product in the United States at 45 cents a pound. American manufacturers are turning out enough of the material to take care of all domestic needs and are supplying Switzerland and some other foreign countries in direct competition with Germany. This alone has enabled the American manufacturers to start a new industry, and it has already more than returned all the money appropriated for the color laboratory since it was first organized; and yet it represents only one line of work of the laboratory. There are 15 other lines that have resulted in important developments.

"The appropriation for investigating the handling and transportation of poultry, eggs, and fish has been reduced by \$10,000. That work has been yielding results worth to the country every year many times the amount of the whole appropriation. The breakage of eggs in transit formerly was so great that the railroads claimed they were handling eggs at a loss. Now

packing and shipping methods have been devised by which breakage can be reduced to little or nothing. These methods, however, are not yet in general application and there is need for extending the work to various sections of the country. Methods have been developed for preventing the spoilage of poultry in transit; and means have been devised for shipping fresh fish in good condition to inland cities which previously could not obtain them. We had planned to extend these three lines of work to sections of the country not yet reached, but this can not be done with the reduced appropriation.

Forest Experiment Stations Closed

"The appropriation for forest investigations has been reduced by \$28,728. Here are some of the things the country will lose as the result: It will lose at least three of the four forest experiment stations on the western national forests, located at Priest River, Idaho; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; and Stabler, Wash. Much of the work dealing with maintaining and reproducing the forests in the East and South, where the problem of forest devastation and future timber supply is most acute, will have to be abandoned. Nothing whatever can be done in the Lake States or in the Northeast. Hardly a start can be made on urgent problems connected with the rapidly waning supply of hard woods in the Central States and the Appalachian regions. Studies of the growth, yield, and future use of the vast areas of yellow-pine lands in the South will have to be abandoned. Little progress can be made in the general survey of national-forest resources and

in studying the economic problems inseparably connected with the development of a comprehensive forest policy.

Crop Estimate Projects to be Discontinued.

"The appropriation for the Bureau of Crop Estimates has been reduced by about \$53,000. This means the discontinuance of all special service except the regular monthly crop reports on acreage, condition, and production of staple crops. It means that the services of crop-reporting specialists on cotton, tobacco, and rice will have to be dispensed with - and these three crops last year had a farm value of nearly \$3,000,000,000. Loss of the rice specialists will directly affect the farmers in the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, South Carolina, and California. The value of the work of the tobacco specialists, which will be discontinued, is well known to the farmers of Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Maryland, and Georgia. Through the loss of the cotton specialists all the cotton-growing States will be affected. Special estimates on the commercial production of fruit and truck crops, which had a farm value last year of nearly \$500,000,000, will have to be discontinued. The commercial apple estimates are said to have been worth at least \$1,000,000 to the apple growers alone last season; and the estimates of the commercial surplus production of potatoes ^{are reported} to have been worth more than \$100,000 to the growers of a single county in Minnesota last season.

Pink Bollworm Fund Reduced.

"The appropriation for the eradication of the pink bollworm of

marketing and distribution of farm products in cities will have to be discontinued. This work has resulted in many improvements in marketing conditions, and has benefited the consumer as well as the producer. Among the cities in which this project has rendered assistance in improving market conditions are: Chicago, Cleveland, Akron, Colorado Springs, Denver, Detroit, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Key West, Richmond, Lynchburg, Memphis, Milwaukee, Miami, Pittsburgh, Oil City, Salt Lake City, Toledo, St. Augustine and Wilkesbarre.

"It will be necessary to discontinue all the work relating to the direct marketing of farm products by parcel post, express, and otherwise. This work has brought to light very useful information and only through investigations of this sort is it possible to find a market outlet for much food which is not produced in sufficient quantities to be marketed in car lots and which otherwise may go to waste.

Market News Services Curtailed.

"The appropriation for the market news services on fruits and vegetables and on live stock and meats has been reduced by \$58,680. These services have been endorsed by a large number of representative agricultural associations and by thousands of individual producers, commercial firms, and others. To conduct them properly, the Department formerly had 17,000 miles of leased wire in operation. On account of decreased funds, its wire mileage already has been cut to about 5,000, and must be still further reduced under the limited appropriation. The Pacific Coast, the Intermountain region, the South, and Southwest, which during the past year have been largely deprived of the benefits of the news services, have suffered further

reductions in the last month. This is particularly unfortunate since all these sections, relatively remote from markets, are in urgent need of accurate and dependable market information.

"The service rendered the public from most of the large market centers, especially Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Omaha, and Minneapolis, must be curtailed to such an extent that wide dissemination of information regarding market demands, supplies, and prices will be impossible. Forced consolidation of present leased wire facilities will result in confusion and delay on account of congested wires. It will be necessary to eliminate all live stock market messages during the forenoon to eastern points on the leased wire from the Kansas City, Omaha, and East St. Louis markets; and it will be necessary also to delay, until the day's trading has commenced, the transmission to the great live-stock markets of the West of all reports of prices in the eastern wholesale dressed meat markets.

"We have just had to close the office at San Francisco which furnished market news on fruits and vegetables, and, within a few months, will have to discontinue the issuance of market reports on dairy products at Minneapolis and San Francisco. For practical purposes, this will deprive the Pacific Coast of the services on dairy products and fruits and vegetables, and it will greatly delay the dairy service to the important dairy sections now served from Minneapolis. One or two temporary offices will be opened on the Pacific Coast to render a service on special crops during the heavy crop movement, but, as stated, the reduced funds have compelled the virtual elimination of an all-the-year-round service in this/region.

Reduction in Food Products Inspection Service.

The food products inspection service, during the few years it

has been in operation, has prevented the loss of thousand of dollars to the producer. It has practically eliminated the commission man in the important markets who used to buy on a gamble and then reject the shipment if prices declined before it was received. It has made it possible for shippers and other interested parties to obtain reliable reports on the condition of their products when received in the markets. Terms and conditions of sale are stated with greater clearness and precision. The chances of misunderstanding are reduced, and the reports indicate to the shipper whether or not the stock was correctly graded, packed, and labeled. The service facilitates the distribution of farm products, hastens the release of cars, and prevents deterioration and waste caused by the delays incident to disputes.

"There is urgent need for the expansion of this service, but, with the reduced appropriation, not only is expansion impossible, but retrenchment is unavoidable. Butter-inspection work can be conducted in only four of the large markets, and the inspection of certain other commodities specified in the law, such as hay, cannot be handled at all. We had expected to establish offices for the inspection of fruits and vegetables in such cities as Hartford, Connecticut; Louisville, Kentucky; and Norfolk, Virginia; but this can not now be done. It should be borne in mind, in this connection, that the food products inspection service at the present rate of progress, will collect in fees this year about \$58,000, which will be turned into the Treasury.

Cooperative Marketing Work Cannot Be Extended.

Through the cooperative employment of field agents in various

States, important progress has been made in developing broad, consistent marketing policies. Without assistance in coordinating the activities of the various agencies, each State will undoubtedly develop its marketing work in a different way, and confusion and waste will be inevitable. The study of marketing problems on a comprehensive scale was undertaken so recently, and authoritative information is consequently so meager, that it is particularly important to give State agencies the benefit of such conclusions as have been reached by the Department and such States as have undertaken work along these lines; otherwise, they can not avoid costly mistakes and loss of time. We are at present cooperating with 28 States and had expected to extend work to the other States.

"The appropriation for this work, however, has been reduced by \$6,650, and its expansion, which seems so essential at the present time, will have to be postponed until funds are available.

Curtail Grain Standards Work.

"The Department of Agriculture is charged with the duty of enforcing the U. S. Grain Standards Act. The appropriation for this purpose will be reduced by nearly \$50,000 on July 1, although it is now barely sufficient to enable the Department to carry on the work in the most satisfactory way. This legislation, being mandatory and not permissive, imposes upon the Department certain duties which it can not avoid, and the decrease of already inadequate funds necessarily embarrasses the Department and makes it difficult to enforce the law in the constructive manner which the public has every right to expect. To carry out the provisions of the Grain Standards Act, it is necessary, of course, to maintain an organization

covering the entire United States. This requires the maintenance of a relatively large number of branch offices, and these, in the larger markets, must be manned by forces sufficiently large to handle effectively and expeditiously the great volume of work which arises automatically through the operation of the law. Measures will, of course, be taken to execute as much of the work as possible, with the decreased funds, but in order to come within the appropriation, we shall have to discontinue two field stations, i. e., Salt Lake City, Utah; and Cleveland, Ohio. In fact, the Salt Lake City office was closed March 31, 1920, in anticipation of the reduction in funds; and the Cleveland office was closed on May 31. Urgent appeals have been received to reinstate the work in Salt Lake City, but the reduction in funds absolutely precludes such action. The staff at Boston, Massachusetts, must be reduced. It is highly desirable to maintain the force at its present strength, but this cannot be done with reduced funds. It will be necessary to postpone for at least one year the promulgation of standards for milled rice. There is insistent demand for the standardization of additional cereals under the Grain Standards Act, and arrangements had been made to promulgate rice standards before it became clear that the appropriation would be reduced. In fact, tentative standards were announced in February, and hearings regarding them were held in March of this year. Promulgation of the standards must now be deferred until such time as an adequate appropriation is made available for their effective enforcement.

"The appropriation for surveying soils, so that the farmers of the country may know the character of the soil on their farms and that the/

Depart*

ment and State colleges may be in position to help them in solving their soil problems, has been reduced by \$17,500.

Forest-Insect Control Affected.

"The funds available to the Bureau of Entomology for combating insect pests have been curtailed by \$247,000. The amount provided for forest insect investigations, for example, is \$7,590 less than the sum appropriated this year. This will make it necessary, first of all, to abandon the field stations at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Ashland, Oregon, and the sub-station at Chico, California, and also to reduce the work at the field laboratory at Los Gatos, California. All work in the northwestern United States on the investigation of insects injurious to forests, forest products, and shade trees will be discontinued. Work in the Southeastern States relating to insect infestation of cut timber and forest products will be abandoned. Plans to enlarge the work relating to chemical treatment for the prevention of white ants cannot be carried out. Generally speaking, the reduction will cripple the work of forest-insect control throughout the United States. This project has been carried on for a number of years without any increase in appropriation, although there has been a steady increase in the demand for assistance from the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the private owners of woodlands.

"A cut of \$21,760 has been made in the appropriation for truck crop and stored product insect investigations, and Congress has directed that \$10,000 of the funds remaining be used for a new line of work. The project for the control of sweet-potato weevil, the most serious menace

to a southern food crop that was worth last year \$138,000,000, will have to be considerably curtailed. The six States in which the weevil is known to exist are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, which produce more than 50 per cent of the crop. Means for the eradication of the pest have been devised and are being satisfactorily carried out in three States. In a fourth, Alabama, the weevil has been practically eradicated, only one locality reporting an infestation during the last harvest. This work, so well begun, must now be greatly reduced. The let-up in the active campaign will result not only in heavy monetary losses to the South, but lack of inspection and control operations may be followed by general re-infestation of the areas freed from the pest.

Two Insect-Control Stations Abandoned.

"Aside from the sweet-potato weevil work, other serious curtailments must be made. We shall have to abandon the station at Greeley, Colorado, which is investigating sugar-beet and potato insects, and also the station at Chadbourne, N. C., which is studying berry and cabbage insects. Discontinuance of the work at Greeley is particularly unfortunate because of the threatened serious outbreak of the sugar-beet web worm this season. Without control, it may cause losses running into millions.

"The fund for miscellaneous insect investigations has been reduced by \$10,000. About three-fourths of this reduction must be borne by the project for the investigation of insects affecting the health of man—such as mosquitoes, the house fly, etc., and insects affecting domestic animals. Some of the work will have to be abandoned and the

remainder curtailed. The rest of the cut will fall on what we call the systematic staff--a corps of experts of world-wide reputation brought together by reason of their intimate knowledge of the different groups of insects. An insect must be identified before the means of controlling it can be found. That is what these men do, not only for the Department of Agriculture but for the various State agricultural colleges and experiment stations.

Gipsy Moth Control Work Curtailed.

"The fund for control of the gipsy moth and the brown tail moth has been reduced by \$52,650. This work was begun in 1906, when these two pests were threatening to destroy all kinds of trees in New England and the Northeast. Several million dollars of Federal money has been expended on it, and a still larger amount has been spent by the States concerned. The pests are under control, but disastrous spread has been prevented only with the greatest difficulty under the present appropriation. The Federal activities have been concentrated largely along the border lines in order to protect the rest of the country, while work in the interior of the infested areas has been left largely to the States. Now work along the border line must be greatly curtailed and, if conditions are favorable for the spread of the pests, the year may see a great deal of new territory infested. Sporadic outbreaks have occurred from time to time in Ohio, New York, and New Jersey, but we have always succeeded in exterminating the moths in these areas. If such outbreaks occur now, there will not be sufficient money to handle them properly.

"A reduction of \$2,000 has been made in the appropriation for in-

vestigation of tropical and sub-tropical plant insects. That is a comparatively small sum of money, but it seriously affects six or seven projects, involving important fruit industries in California and Florida, and the other Gulf States.

Other Activities Affected

"It is impossible, in this statement, to indicate in detail all the lines of work that will be affected by the reductions made in the Department's appropriations for next year, and, of course, it does not take into account the projects which the department feels, as indicated in the estimates submitted to Congress, should be inaugurated or expanded in order to deal more effectively with important problems in the field of agriculture. Many important activities in addition to those mentioned will necessarily have to be curtailed, including investigations in the culture and improvement of forage crops, studies of live-stock production in sugar-cane and cotton districts, work in the control of the potato-wart disease, field experiments in the various methods of road construction and maintenance and investigations concerning road materials, farm-irrigation investigations, and farm-drainage investigations. A reduction of \$50,000 in the fund heretofore available for the essential improvement work on the national forests will also make necessary the postponement of much needed work in connection with the construction and maintenance of roads and trails, bridges, fire lanes, telephone lines, fences, and other improvements necessary for the proper and economical administration, protection, and development of the national forests.

"All these reductions are much more serious than appears from a mere dollars and cents statement. A dollar, as we all know, buys much less of everything than it formerly bought and also does considerably less work. Even if all the appropriations had been retained at the old figures, therefore, the Department would have been seriously handicapped in carrying on its work effectively.

Congressional Seed Distribution Continued

"Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Department that it be eliminated, the item of \$239,000 for Congressional seed distribution has been included in the bill. A special letter was sent, on February 26, 1920, to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry strongly urging that the appropriation for the free seed distribution, which has been carried in the bill for many years, be discontinued, and that the funds thus saved be used for the prosecution of urgently important investigational work on problems of crop production. The Senate Committee adopted the Department's recommendation and its action was confirmed by the Senate. The conferees, at first, were unable to reach an agreement on the matter, and so reported to both Houses of Congress. It was then considered by the House and the House conferees were instructed to insist on the retention of the item in the bill. The question was reconsidered by the conferees, but they were unable to agree and again reported a disagreement. The House again insisted on the inclusion of the appropriation in the bill. At this stage, the Senate suggested, as ^a/compromise, the following:

1.9
Ag81R

U.S.D.A.

Activities of the Dept. of agriculture...
1920.

JUN 28 1939

Social Security file

(JUN 30 1939)

'For the purchase, testing, and distribution of valuable seeds, bulbs, trees, shrubs, vines, cuttings, and plants, \$75,000. Said seeds, bulbs, trees, shrubs, vines, cuttings, and plants shall be sent only to such persons as shall make request therefor: Provided, That all such requests made of Senators, Representatives, and Delegates in Congress, if transmitted to the Department of Agriculture, shall be complied with by said department.'

The House, however, refused to accept the proposal, and the Senate finally receded from its amendment striking the item from the bill. The Congressional seed distribution, therefore, carrying an appropriation of \$239,000, will be continued during the next fiscal year.

